

**THE EMBODIMENTS OF THE INVENTION IN WHICH AN EXCLUSIVE  
PROPERTY OR PRIVILEGE IS CLAIMED ARE DEFINED AS FOLLOWS:**

1. An aqueous emulsion, for addition to an aqueous gypsum slurry, comprising:
  - a hydrocarbon wax;
  - a polyolefin-maleic anhydride graft polymer;
  - polyvinyl alcohol.
2. The emulsion of claim 1 wherein said polyolefin-maleic anhydride graft polymer includes at least one maleic anhydride group grafted onto a polyolefin backbone.
3. The emulsion of claim 2 wherein said polyolefin backbone is polyethylene.
4. The emulsion of claim 1 wherein said hydrocarbon wax is a paraffin wax.
5. The emulsion of claim 1 wherein the polyvinyl alcohol is chosen from the group comprising partially or fully hydrolyzed polyvinyl acetate and mixtures thereof.
6. The emulsion of claim 5 wherein the polyvinyl alcohol comprises at least 80% hydrolyzed polyvinyl acetate.
7. The emulsion of claim 1 wherein the hydrocarbon wax is selected from the group consisting of paraffin wax, caruba wax, polyethylene wax, synthetic wax esters, acid waxes, maleated hydrocarbons, and combinations thereof.

8. A gypsum slurry composition, for use in making gypsum products, comprising a mixture of:
- a) an aqueous gypsum slurry; and,
  - b) an emulsion comprising:
    - a hydrocarbon wax;
    - a polyolefin-maleic anhydride graft polymer;
    - polyvinyl alcohol.
9. The composition of claim 8 wherein said polyolefin-maleic anhydride graft polymer includes at least one maleic anhydride group grafted onto a polyolefin backbone.
10. The composition of claim 9 wherein said polyolefin backbone is polyethylene.
11. The composition of claim 8 wherein said hydrocarbon wax is a paraffin wax.
12. The composition of claim 8 wherein the polyvinyl alcohol is chosen from the group comprising partially or fully hydrolyzed polyvinyl acetate and mixtures thereof.
13. The composition of claim 12 wherein the polyvinyl alcohol comprises at least 80% hydrolyzed polyvinyl acetate.
14. The composition of claim 8 wherein the hydrocarbon wax is selected from the group consisting of paraffin wax, caruba wax, polyethylene wax, synthetic wax esters, acid waxes, maleated hydrocarbons, and combinations thereof.